

22 April 1957

25X1

Excuse the delay in getting a note to you, but the process of getting settled has contributed to my procrastination.

The organization is slowly settling into the groove of normal operation and the various changes are becoming stabilized. The billets and messing facilities have been excellent from the start. Our hangar and working area are most satisfactory and a tribute to the efforts of [redacted] Local 25X1 personnel are still talking about how he got the job done.

As noted in my message to you, FEAF Headquarters requested our stand-down until the necessary protocol could be accomplished. It was interesting to note that this was given as a request not a directive thru Gen Harris. In other words they were not assuming they had control, but this was as a favor to them. FEAF cleared us 15 April and we've been flying ever since. Outside of a few rumbles here and there from lesser lights (wheels), operations are going as normal. I feel that if Gen Kuter is used as the bunker between Gen Lemnitzer and the Detachment less panics will be started. In this respect we have been operating, as you know, about two sorties a day this past week. I wanted to establish the fact that we operate with no fan fare and everything is as in a normal AF unit. This may calm a few fears. I plan to see Gen Kuter Monday 22 April, if possible, and firm up the channel for the exchange of information when required. Gen Harris, his D/O, has been very sympathetic.

One item came up in my meeting with the Airmen. This conference is just Airmen and myself and a place for them to sound off on any personal complaints. Of course, the old request of "What are our chances for promotion, in view of the priority of this Project?" I would like to know if there is a way of getting very deserving Airmen promoted even if their career field is frozen. In other words a special "in" because of the Project. Some seem to feel they had been led to believe this from Project Headquarters. I realize that there is always somebody looking for something for nothing, but I do have a few deserving Airmen in the frozen category.

I hope you are planning on visiting us. We are looking forward to seeing Mr. B., and hope he will carry the long awaited good word. Give my regards to all.

Sincerely,

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